

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 114

Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Battle at Little Bighorn.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2001

Mr. CAMPBELL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Battle at
Little Bighorn.

Whereas, on June 25, 1876, the 7th Cavalry of the United States Army, led by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, fought with a group of Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians camped on the shores of the Little Bighorn River;

Whereas this battle was the result of increasing hostility between the United States and Sioux and Cheyenne tribes over Sioux ownership of the Black Hills and the trespass of non-Indians into the area;

Whereas the Sioux believed the Black Hills, or Paha Sapa, as they called them, to be sacred, a place they traveled to in order to have visions and pray;

Whereas the United States and Sioux leaders agreed to the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1868, securing to the Sioux ownership of the Black Hills forever, and pledging to aid and assist in keeping trespassers away from the Black Hills;

Whereas the United States violated the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1874 by sending, without the permission of the Sioux, a reconnaissance mission to the Black Hills, led by General George Armstrong Custer;

Whereas tensions were rising in Sioux Country, where the tribes were becoming increasingly unsettled and feared the loss of Sioux Country and their way of life;

Whereas the Battle at Little Bighorn was preceded by two military engagements, occurring on March 17, 1876, and June 17, 1876;

Whereas, after the second engagement, now known as the Battle at Rosebud, the Sioux and Cheyenne moved their encampment from the Rosebud River to the Little Bighorn River;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Custer, along with 650 soldiers and scouts, was dispatched to scout for the Indians along the Rosebud and Little Bighorn Rivers;

Whereas, on the morning on June 25, 1876, Lieutenant Colonel Custer discovered the Indian encampment of approximately 10,000 on the shore of the Little Bighorn River and determined to engage in a battle with them;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Custer's forces, upon attempting to engage the Indian warriors at the shore of the Little Bighorn River, were forced back up the ridge from which they attacked and forced west, and were overwhelmed by Indian forces;

Whereas the 201 men under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Custer were killed and the total losses suffered by the U.S. Army numbered 258;

Whereas the Sioux and Cheyenne, led by Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and Gall, suffered losses of approximately 58; and

Whereas the Battle of Little Bighorn occupies a legendary place in American history, a tragic clash of two cultures leading to the demise of the traditional Indian way of life, and the end of the era known in American history as the “Indian Wars”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) honors the memory of the those who died in
3 the battle, the Indians fighting for a way of life that
4 they believed in and the cavalry troops fighting for
5 the young nation in which they believed;

6 (2) recognizes June 25th, 2001, as the 125th
7 Anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn; and

8 (3) calls upon the people of the United States
9 to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and
10 respect.

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